

DAY, MAY 29, 1925.

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Wm. Smith
W. B. Smith
George L. Shue
Alfred Stroud
John H. Scott
Joslyn Southard
Theodore Sanger
O. C. D. Shipness
Caleb C. Sherman
James B. Short
Scipio Stratton
H. P. Strong
Geo. Seegmiller
Frank Salisbury
W. H. Towsley
Thomas Tripp
W. H. Tattershall
Mathias Thornton
George Tuttle
Allen Trostle
C. G. Turney
Alpha Thorpe
A. Thompson
Edwin Thompson
Charles Upham
J. H. Vervallin
John Vallee
J. J. Wood
Wm. Williams
F. Walters
James Wilkins
S. P. Wilder
John B. Whiting
Wm. Whetstone
Alden Winn
George Winn
Carl Walter
Simon Westcott
W. W. Woods
Elias Watson
George W. West
Oscar Watts
Butler J. Wetmore
Calvin Washburn
Wm. F. Weightman
Albert Webb
Charles Wagner
Vincent Willard
W. W. Wheeler
William G. Willson
John Yonts
Mark Young
Godfrey Yagla
Christian Yordy
William Zillely

BRAVERY OF CRANE MEMORIALIZED BY BELOIT G. A. R. POST

HERO OF BATTLE AT CEDAR
MOUNTAIN IS BURIED HERE
IN OAKWOOD CEMETERY

"Immortality is a souvenir left in the memory of mankind. That is, an idea leading to great things. Better never to have lived at all than to leave no traces of one's existence."

If this statement uttered by Napoleon as he stood musing one cold, gray day in the early fall of 1814 at the grave of Jean Jacques Rousseau be accepted as a criterion to gauge the values of men's lives, the life of L. H. D. Crane, after whom the Beloit G. A. R. post is named, may be said not to have been in vain. For the Confederate bullet that ended the Beloit man's career closed a life of romance and honorable achievement that will always be recorded in the history of this section of the country.

Born In East

L. H. D. Crane was born July 7, 1826—just three days after the deaths of John Adams and Thomas Jefferson—at Westmoreland, Onondaga county, New York. He was the son of a prominent Presbyterian minister. Young Crane grew up in an atmosphere conducive to health and vigor and he was known for miles around Westmoreland for his athletic feats. Having completed the preliminary schooling offered in his home town, he entered Hamilton college, the institution named after the West Indian genius who founded the financial system of the United States. After four years of study Crane was graduated. He then studied medicine for one year but forsook Galen for Blackstone and became the law student in New York of Willis Hill, at that time one of the leading barristers in the nation. In 1850, at the age of 24, Crane was admitted to the New York state bar.

Came Hero With Bride

Two years later he married Miss Lucy M. Burrall of Stockbridge, Mass., and in 1853 the young couple removed to Beloit where Crane was engaged for a short time as a teacher in the old Union school. This building was located approximately where the band-stand in Horace White park is now situated.

In the same year Crane and his family moved to Dodgeville where they lived until 1859. Crane took a prominent part in the affairs of the little community and it was largely through his efforts that the village was incorporated. He was elected in 1853, its first president.

Volunteered In '61

Later, for four years, 1858, 1859, 1860 and 1861, he acted as chief clerk of the state legislature. In

HEADS MYRON C. WEST POST OF LEGIONNAIRES



HUGH MITCHELL

tioned on the high vantage ground at the foot of the mountain looked like gray masses of arrested thunder clouds.

Six companies of the Wisconsin 3rd had been detached from Gordon's brigade and attached to Crawford's brigade on the right of the line of battle and at the time Colonel Crane was shot, about 6 o'clock in the afternoon, the six companies of the 3rd had become separated from the 46th Pennsylvania, the next on their left and were endeavoring to hold the extreme right of the line against the advance of three entire regiments of the enemy, the 2nd, 4th and 5th Virginia infantry.

They were obliged to fall back and a short distance in their rear was a rail fence over which they had climbed in their advance. Colonel Crane was near the right and made a desperate attempt to rally the men behind the fence.

Years afterwards, J. C. Moore, a captain of Company I, 2nd Virginia infantry who was present at the battle, wrote the following account of the engagement in which Crane met his death.

Died As A Hero

"When we repulsed the Union forces on the bushy field, an officer of the rank of colonel acted with most distinguished and conspicuous gallantry and remained too long at his post of duty. After we had made our charge, and in doing so had emerged from the cloud of smoke our volley had created, he was still in front endeavoring to

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COMMANDER OF
CRANE POST OF

THE GRAND ARMY

COMMANDER OF CRANE POST OF THE GRAND ARMY



S. D. ROSS

moved to Belleville when he was two years old and he has been a resident of this section ever since. Most of his life he has spent in Beloit. Six years ago he moved to Rockford where he lives with his daughter, Mrs. Lyda Higgins and his son, Will. He also has a son in Beloit, Walter Mahar, who lives at 810 East Grand avenue.

At the age of 83 Mahar is still healthy and active. He retains his recollections of his Civil War days and his youth marvelously clear and he declares that the L. H. D. Crane post need have no fear of losing its last charter member for some time to come.

they lived until 1859. Crane took a prominent part in the affairs of the little community and it was largely through his efforts that the village was incorporated. He was elected in 1853, its first president.

Volunteered In '61

Later, for four years 1858, 1859, 1860 and 1861, he acted as chief clerk of the state legislature. In 1859, when the nascent rumblings of the impending Civil War were becoming more audible each day, he moved with his family to Ripon where he lived until May 30, 1861, when he heeded Lincoln's call to the colors and enlisted in Company A, 3rd Wisconsin Infantry. This momentous event in Crane's life took place about seven weeks after the secessionists' batteries had flaunted the Confederate's challenge to the world with the bombardment of Fort Sumter—the irrevocable step that precipitated the nation into civil war.

Promotions Rapid

Crane's ability in the regimen of military activities soon manifested itself and his promotion was rapid. He was commissioned a second lieutenant upon enlistment and was promoted to the position of first lieutenant and adjutant June 20, 1861. On August 10, the same year, he was made a major and on June 1, 1862, he rose to the rank of a lieutenant-colonel.

His regiment was a part of the 12th corps in the army of the Potomac until 1863 when it was ordered west and became, then, until after Appomattox, a unit in the 20th corps. This new corps was made by a consolidation of the 11th and 12th and retained the star of the 12th as its corps badge. But all this was after Colonel Crane had fallen in battle.

Killed at Cedar Mountain

Crane met his death August 9, 1862, at the disastrous battle of Cedar Mountain. The Union forces under Generals Banks and Pope were opposed by the Confederates under Thomas Jonathan Jackson, that queer military genius, who since the day when General Bee, in appealing to his men to resist the Union charges at Bull Run, pointed toward him, and exclaimed, "Look, there stands Jackson like a stone wall," had led the men in gray to victory after victory over the Northerners.

The Union forces were the attacking party and the southerners sta-

"When we repulsed the Union forces on the hushy field, an officer of the rank of colonel acted with most distinguished and conspicuous gallantry and remained too long at his post of duty. After we had made our charge, and in doing so had emerged from the cloud of smoke our volley had created, he was still in front endeavoring to rally the retreating men. Finding this to be impossible he slowly turned his horse to ride through a gap in the fence, when he was struck by one of the hundreds of bullets flying about him, and he fell from his horse. I afterwards saw him dead on the field and though I did not learn his name I am sure that no braver officer ever fell on any battlefield.

The officer whom Moore did not know was later identified as Colonel Crane.

Crane now lies buried in Oakwood cemetery.

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Beloit



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Frisky trout in a
swift-running brook; s
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Some of your friends
going this summer to
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Instead of envying
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Brigadier-general Elon J. Farnsworth
Fell at the

Battle of Gettysburg, July 3, 1863,
aged 25 yrs. 11 mos.

Son of J.P. & Achsah Farnsworth

Mary A. Farnsworth. J.P. Farnsworth.
(JKelly)

Born Oct. 6, 1812. Born May 10, 1810.
Died June 16, 1883. Died Oct. 24, 1898.

Amelia M.
wife of J.P. Farnsworth.
Born Mar. 3, 1815,
Died Oct. 7, 1891.

IN MEMORIAM.

Brigadier-general Elon J. Farnsworth.
Lieut.-Col. L.H.D. Crane.

Asleep by the murmuring river,

In Rockton's shades,

Heroic Farnsworth lies;

While near in Oakwood

* Mid Nature's low replies

Of birds and leaves a-quiver,

The gallant Crane's asleep.

O America, in thy heart this vision keep

Of duty, like these soldiers brave,

Who died to make the nation live!



Monument to Brigadier-general

Elon J. Farnsworth in Rockton Cemetery,
Rockton, Illinois.



The L.H. D. Crane Lot in Oakwood Cemetery,
Beloit.

Louis H. D. Crane was born July 7, 1826 in Hampton, Oneida Co., N.Y. He attended Hamilton College and was admitted to the bar in 1850. In 1852, Mr. Crane married Miss Lucy Burrall and came to Beloit shortly after. He became a teacher in Beloit, removed to Dodgeville, where he practised law and finally for four years was clerk of the Wisconsin Assembly.

When the Civil War broke out, Mr. Crane joined the Third Wisconsin Regiment and became its Lieut.-Colonel. As Lieut.-Col. of Company A, 3rd Wisconsin Infantry, 20th Corps, he was killed in action, August 9, 1862. The engagement was the Battle of Cedar Mountain, in which 7000 Union troops were engaged with 22,000 rebel forces under Stonewall Jackson. Wisconsin troops became separated from the Union troops next them and were trying to hold the extreme right of the line against a superior force of rebels. They fell back to a rail fence where Col. Crane tried to rally his men, remaining too long at this. He was struck by some of the thousands of bullets aimed at his men and fell from his horse.

Col. Crane's body, wrapped in the flag, was brought to Beloit where it has since been long enshrined. In 1882, Dec. 14, the Beloit Post of the Grand Army was named for Col. Crane. Mrs. Crane made her home in Beloit with her family and died in 1897.

DATA ON THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC
AND THE WOMEN'S RELIEF CORPS, AUXILIARY
TO
THE GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC.

The organization known as the Grand Army of the Republic was founded June 7, 1866, at Decatur, Illinois. The main purpose of the organization was to care for the veterans and their dependent ones. Another purpose was the preservation of the ideas for which the war had been fought.

The Women's Relief Corps, Auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic was founded in Denver, Colorado, July 26, 1883.

There are 108 posts of the Grand Army of the Republic in Wisconsin. There were 97,000 men from Wisconsin in the Civil War. There are about 520 veterans now surviving in Wisconsin. (From late records).

The Beloit Post of the Grand Army of the Republic was founded Nov. 21, 1882. This charter meeting was held in Fenton's Hall, on that date. The meeting was called to order by Col. S.C. Cobb, assisted by members of the Janesville Post. Chalmers Ingersoll was made Chairman of the meeting and later elected Commander of the Post. Charles Newburgh was made Secretary. Eighteen of the charter members were present and regularly mustered in.

The officers elected at this meeting were:-

Chalmers Ingersoll. Post Commander.

C.H. Parnely. Senior Vice Commander.

R. Butler. Junior Vice Commander.

W.H. Grinnell. Chaplain.

H.S. Hendee. Officer of the Day.

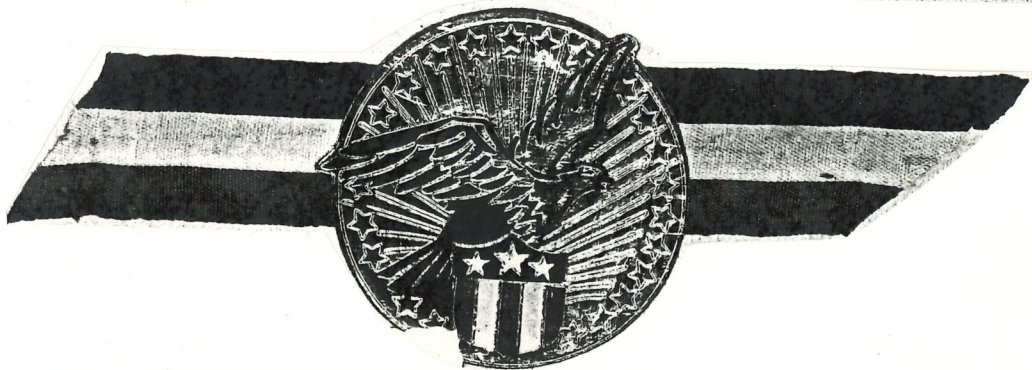
Samuel Sherman. Officer of the Guard.

J.M. Hoyt. Adjutant.

J.W. Fields. Quartermaster Sgt.

W.H. Gilbert. Sergeant Major.

It was not until a meeting Dec. 14, 1882 that the Post was named the L.H.D. Crane Post, No. 54 of the Grand Army of the Republic, in memory of Col. L.H.D. Crane.



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Beloit's L.H.D. Crane Post, G.A.R.,
Endured, Thrustriously, until 1943

Were 'Bill' Chesbrough Here, There'd Be Another Encampment, and Parade

By Blaine Hansen

SIX Civil War veterans are expected to be on hand for what has been announced as the final Grand Army of the Republic National Encampment, scheduled for Indianapolis, where the first one was held away back in 1866. Already, however, can be heard rumors of a revolt, involving three (constituting 50 percent of the membership expected to attend) who declare the national meetings must go on until there is only one attending.

As we remember the fighting spirit of some the last survivors in Beloit's L. H. D. Crane Post 54, such as Comrade W. H. Chesbrough, Sr., and Comrade S. D. Ross, among others, it can be understood how the intent to abandon them is a "may" rather than a "must." The fighting spirit which made possible victory at the Battle of Gettysburg, one of the decisive battles of the world, still prevails, undaunted by the relentless march of time.

In his latter days Mr. Chesbrough used to do some figuring about how long the 'Boys in Blue' would still be with us. He set 1947 as the probable date, then later did some more calculating and gleefully moved the final date up to 1954. He based his conclusions on the fact that the last veteran of the Revolutionary war passed away in 1868. Considering the larger number of men engaged in the Civil War, he believed his second guess entirely possible. With some 16 Civil War veterans still living, it may be that Mr. Chesbrough figured correctly.

Guardsmen First

Beloit seems to have started off its contributions to armies of all wars by sending its 'guards.' Company E marched off to the Spanish American War in April, 1898. World War I saw Company L of the Wisconsin National Guard, led by the G. A. R. post, departing in 1917, and, in 1940, another Company L, paraded through downtown and away to World War II.

Local history tells us that it was noonday of May 2, 1861, that the Beloit City Guards, headed by the City band playing "Yankee Doodle," took off through thronged streets, after Mayor Charles H. Parker had given them a rousing farewell speech. That was 88 years ago but today we still have a National Guard unit ready for service, should the occasion arise.

L. H. D. Crane Post 54, Grand Army of the Republic, was not organized until 1882, with Chalmers (Cham) Ingersoll, a Gettysburg cavalry veteran and colorful editor of the Beloit Free Press, as commander. When the Wisconsin department encampment convened at Beloit in 1929, 23 men had headed the post, most

of them outstanding Beloiters. Following that year the organization was maintained through the time when a remnant of the once large organization took over the G. A. R. room in Grinnell Memorial Hall. The meetings had, by that time, become infrequent with auxiliary bodies lending a hand.

The Commanders

Roster of all commanders tabulated at the time of the convention of 20 years ago comprised Ingersoll, S. W. Barr, David Baker, J. V. Richards, T. P. Northrop, Shumway Conant, W. G. Willson, L. S. Moseley, James Croft, W. H. Grinnell, Simon Smith, W. B. Smith, E. M. Gammon, J. E. Ross, Peter Crave, J. A. Howe, George Seegmiller, William L. Austin, A. C. Stevens, J. P. Kildow, W. H. Chesbrough and H. W. Ford. There were commanders following 1929 but they were drawn, as we recall, from survivors on the above list, with Chesbrough having most to do with keeping the post functioning during this last phase. Spencer D. Ross also served several terms in office and was very active until his death just preceding this closing period. Grinnell and Chesbrough were Wisconsin state commanders.

Highlights in the life of Crane post were many. One of them was when the G.A.R. monument was dedicated at Oakwood cemetery in 1905, with Joel B. Dow, a distinguished Beloit citizen, as orator of the day. Simon Smith, a former Beloit mayor, presided at the exercises which were attended by thousands of people, including many Civil War veterans from out of town. The committee had arranged seats for the post on the platform, in front of the monument, so the speaker could address them as Daniel Webster had done at the Bunker Hill monument exercises when he said to a row of Revolutionary war veterans, seated before him: "Venerable men, you have come down to us from a former generation! Heaven has bounteously lengthened out your lives that you might be with us on this great occasion."

Honored the Ladies

In this case, however, the plans went awry. Old soldiers ushered members of the Women's Relief Corps to the platform, overriding protests from the committee, by stoutly maintaining the ladies' right to be seated in the honored place. The veterans remembered how hard the W.R.C. had worked, through many years, to earn money which formed a nucleus for the monument fund. This was "the payoff" and the post was unanimous in making sure that justice was done them. Otherwise the program went off as planned,



H. Chesbrough, right, former Wisconsin G.A.R. department commander, and James "Ab" Perry, last surviving member of L. H. D. Crane post who died in 1943, are shown here in a characteristic pose, taken during the last year of Chesbrough's life. Together they carried on the post traditions, Perry living till well into the World War II period.

Dow's speech being a masterly effort still remembered by those who heard it.

The 1929 convention was brought here largely through the efforts of Mr. Chesbrough, Comrade S. D. Ross having died shortly before that date. There were 135 Union veterans, all 80 or older, who signed the muster roll for that event, most of whom marched in the parade and who attended a campfire meeting at the First Congregational church. Congressman Henry Allen Cooper of the First District, a long time champion of veterans rights in the halls of congress, attended the convention and addressed its assemblage.

Memorial Days of Long Ago

Memorial Days of 40 and 50 years ago used to be "the day of the year" for the Boys in Blue, starting in the morning with decoration of veterans' graves in Oakwood and Calvary cemeteries. Exercises, sometimes held in the Opera House, or in one of the churches, were in the afternoons, followed by a march to Oakwood with the city band playing an appropriate dirge. Before the erection of the "Soldiers' Monument" exercises were held at the Crane lot, where Colonel L.H.D. Crane, killed in the Battle of Cedar Mountain, Virginia, was buried. The prescribed G.A.R. ritual was carried out, with G.A.R. members manning the firing squad for the closing volleys, local boys, now middle aged men, scrambling about their feet for the empty cartridge shells. On the march back "to town" the veterans stepped along briskly as the band played "The Girl I Left Behind Me," Civil War equivalent to World War II's "Lilli Marlene."

Membership in old L.H.D. Crane post included many men who served Beloit well in civic activities. C. F. Hardy was a mayor, as was Simon Smith who was also a member of the legislature and

for a long period on the Rock County Board of Supervisors. Other Civil War veterans mayors though not possibly members of the post, were Dr. H. P. Strong and Ole C. Johnson.

Last Member, "Abe" Perry

The post went out of existence with the death of "Ab" Perry, Oct. 3, 1943. Last surviving member, he rounded out a life of 96 years in his home at 329 Highland ave., where he had lived continuously since a boy of six and from where he had left for war as a lad of 18 years, Feb. 13, 1865. He was in Company H, 47th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. He served until Sept. 8, 1865, when the unit was disbanded, after guard and raid duty in Alabama.

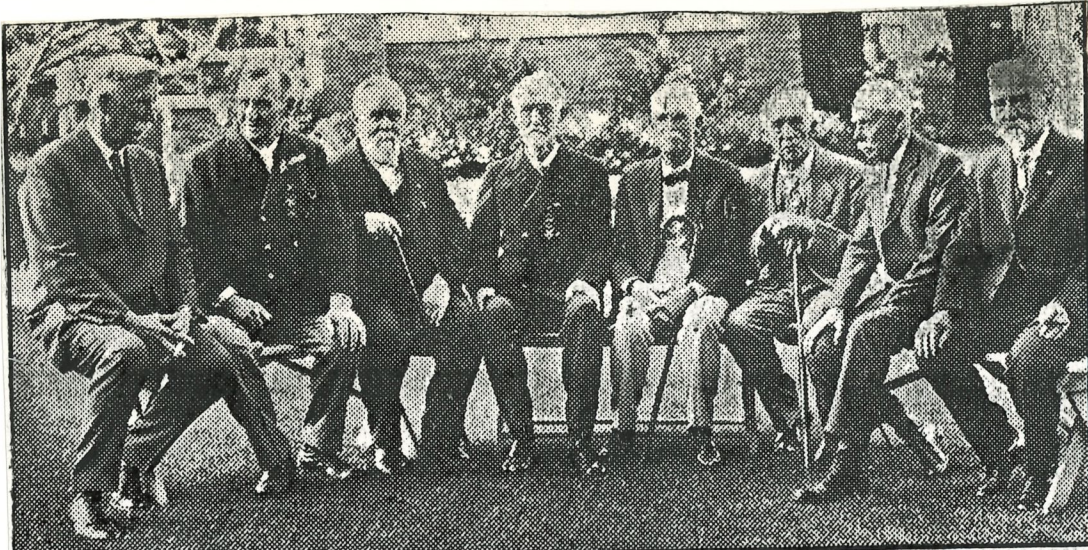
John Dorn was the last surviving Beloit Civil war veteran, but he was not a member of the GAR.

So now we have come to the end of the National GAR encampments, perhaps. It is possibly the only thing to do, with hardly a score of members left, and a bare half dozen of that number still able to attend conventions. However, we are quite sure, if Mr. Chesbrough was still here, he would want to carry Old Glory at the head of the line, as he did at his last encampment, when 93 years old, a few weeks before his death in the Wisconsin Veterans Home, King, Wis., in 1939. And we are also quite sure he would be on the side of the 50 per cent who still think the annual events should be continued until all members have been "mustered out."

"Tramp, tramp, tramp, the boys are marching

Cheer up, comrades, they will come!

And beneath the starry flag We will breathe the air again In the free land of our own beloved home!"



This picture, taken during one of the last Crane post G. A. R. turnouts, portrays, reading from left to right, William H. Wheeler, William H. Chesbrough, Albert R. Winegar, Spencer D. Ross, veteran unidentified, J. A. Howe, Oliver J. Stiles and Peter Crave. At this time the organization was one of the largest Wisconsin units still functioning.



FRIDAY, MAY 29, 1953

Last Boy in Blue Set for Parade On Memorial Day

DULUTH, Minn. — (P) — Albert Henry Woolson has his blue serge suit with brass buttons cleaned and pressed and the "GAR" on his uniform cap sparkles.

Saturday is the old soldier's 84th Memorial day and the 106 year old

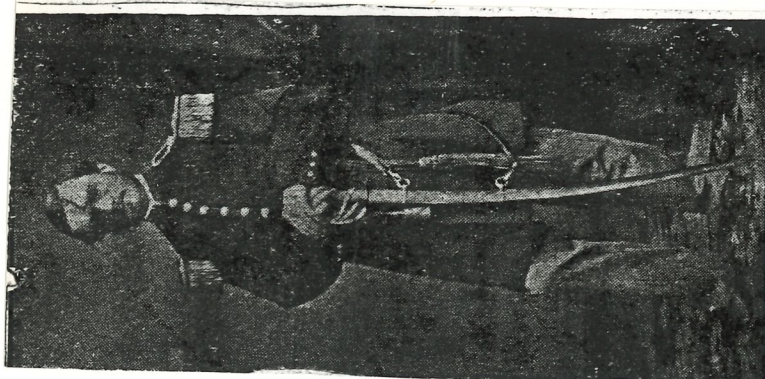


Civil War veteran will be the center of Duluth's observance. Memorial day finds Woolson without a single comrade in the Grand Army of the Republic, which once counted 408,489 members. He is the only survivor of the 1,675,000-man Union army.

In his self-designed GAR uniform, Woolson will lay a wreath on the soldiers' and sailors' monument in front of the Duluth courthouse.

He will be honorary grand marshal of a parade.

Then he will take part in ceremonies at the Duluth armory and a Duluth cemetery honoring the city's war dead.



Captain George B. Easterly, commandant of the Fourth Wisconsin Battery, an outfit organized in Beloit in September, 1861 and comprised largely of Beloit men, as he was photographed during the war.



A smaller marker on the Rosman lot in Oakwood says that Col. Rolf Rosman was born in 1873 and died in 1941. He was a veteran of the Spanish-American War of 1898.

Col. Rosman was a life-long friend of the Grand Army of the Republic. Active in local military affairs, he was also one of the original members of the mortuary firm of Rosman, Uehling, and Kinzer.



ROLF ROSMAN



MRS. HUBERT MUSSELMAN AND SONS
LYTTON AND STEPHEN AT THE GRAVE
OF COMRADE LYTTON J. MUSSELMAN
INDIAN SCOUT AND VETERAN
TAKEN IN THE SPRING OF 1952
EASTLAWN CEMETERY



1952



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